

Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, February 26, 1998

Treasurer,

It is my most pleasant duty to present to you and to this Convocation the Honourable Robert Keith Rae, and to request that you confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.

His has been a career marked by high achievement in government and in the practice of law. He was first elected to the House of Commons in 1978, and served continuously until 1982, when he became leader of the New Democratic Party of Ontario & was elected to the Ontario legislature. He served as Leader of the Official Opposition before becoming Premier in 1990.

His government presided over a major restructuring of the Ontario economy during the most difficult recession since the 1930's, and made significant advances in social policy.

Bob Rae is known throughout the country for his leadership in advancing initiatives to strengthen Canada's constitutional framework. He is widely respected for his passionate defence of national unity, & for advocating a flexible & progressive federalism.

In 1995 Bob Rae returned to the private sector as a partner at the law firm of Goodman, Phillips and Vineberg. His record of outstanding leadership in government, in advancing social policy and in advancing the cause of Canada have brought honour to the profession, and he is truly deserving of the award of Doctor of Laws honoris causa.